

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH WORKS WITH A LOCAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT TO PROTECT HEALTH

Victorville. An individual who had contagious tuberculosis (TB), and is a member of the Victor Elementary School District, has been identified by the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health. In conjunction with school officials and City staff, the Department is in the process of evaluating all students, faculty and staff who may have been exposed. The most common way to become infected with TB germs is by spending a lot of time with a person who has active TB in enclosed spaces with poor ventilation.

There is a difference between TB infection and TB disease. People with TB disease are sick from the germs that are *active* in their body and they may cough a lot, feel weak, have a fever, lose weight, cough up blood, or sweat a lot at night. People with TB disease are capable of giving the infection to others. People with TB infection (without disease) have the TB germ in their body, but they are not sick because the germ is *inactive*. They cannot spread the germ to others. About one out of ten people with TB infection become sick with TB disease. TB can be treated and cured.

Although it may be a new experience for those involved, communicable disease investigation is a regular activity for Public Health. Dr. Maxwell Ohikhuare, Public Health Officer, noted that "this classic example of tuberculosis case investigation is an important step in helping prevent the spread of TB." All students and staff who test positive for infection will receive further testing and medication to ensure they do not develop the active form of TB disease.

There will be an informational meeting, including a question and answer period, for the parents, school faculty, staff and students on Thursday, June 10, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at Del Rey Elementary School, 15332 Del Rey Drive, Victorville, CA 92395.

The San Bernardino County Department of Public Health has established a telephone information line between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., for anyone with questions regarding TB exposure at (800) 722-4794. To learn more about TB, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/tb/faqs.

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Gregory C. Devereaux
County Administrative Officer

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